

Council Action on Reauthorization of Amendment 64 - December 2002

The Council approved two problem statements for an analysis which combines two major potential actions: **1)** extend and/or modify the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear allocations currently in place under BSAI Amendment 64, and **2)** split the pot share of the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear TAC between pot catcher processors and pot catcher vessels according to recent catch histories as previously considered under BSAI Amendment 68. A new FMP amendment is required to make the proposed changes; **BSAI Amendment 77** is the new amendment number which encompasses both proposed actions. The Council approved a separate problem statement for each potential action as follows:

Problem statements for BSAI Amendment 77

Problem Statement 1: Overall fixed gear allocations (Applicable to Alternatives 1 -3, formerly under Amendment 64)

The fixed gear fisheries for Pacific cod in the BSAI are fully utilized. The fishermen who hold licenses in the BSAI Pacific cod fisheries have made substantial investments and are significantly dependent on BSAI Pacific cod.

The longline and pot gear allocations currently in place for the BSAI Pacific cod fishery under Amendment 64 expire December 31, 2003. Without action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, serious disruption to the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear fisheries will occur. Prompt action is required to maintain stability in the BSAI fixed gear Pacific cod fishery until comprehensive rationalization is completed.

Problem Statement 2: Separate allocations for pot catcher processors and pot catcher vessels: (Applicable to Alternative 4, formerly under Amendment 68)

The catcher processor and catcher vessel pot fisheries for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands are fully utilized. Pot catcher processors who have made significant long-term investments, have long catch histories, and are significantly dependent on the BSAI cod fisheries need protection from pot catcher vessels who want to increase their Pacific cod harvest. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the BSAI pot cod fishery until comprehensive rationalization is completed.

The Council also approved the following alternatives and options to be analyzed under BSAI Amendment 77. Initial review is scheduled for April 2003, with final action in June.

Alternative 1: No action. BSAI Pacific cod allocations for the fixed gear sectors (hook-and-line catcher processors, hook-and-line catcher vessels, pot vessels, and hook-and-line and pot vessels <60') under Amendment 64 would expire December 31, 2003.

Alternative 2: Status quo. Continue the current BSAI Pacific cod allocations among the fixed gear sectors as originally determined under BSAI Amendment 64:

- 80% hook-and-line catcher processors
- 0.3% hook-and-line catcher vessels
- 1.4% pot or hook-and-line catcher vessels <60'
- 18.3% pot vessels

Rollover Options

- Option 1: Any unharvested portion of the hook-and-line catcher vessel and the <60' pot and hook-and-line vessel quota that is projected to remain unused by a specified date shall be reallocated to the hook-and-line catcher processor fleet.
- Option 2: Any quota reallocated from the jig or trawl sectors will be apportioned 95% to the hook-and-line catcher processor sector and 5% to the pot sectors.
- Option 3: Apportion the 2% BSAI Pacific cod jig allocation on a quarterly or trimester basis as follows, and rollover unused jig gear quota to the catcher vessels <60' using hook-and-line or pot gear:
- Suboption:
- (a) 25% - 25% - 25% - 25%
 - (b) 50% - 30% - 15% - 5%
 - (c) 33.3% - 33.3% - 33.3%
 - (d) 60% - 25% - 15%
 - (e) Provide a regulatory framework such that the seasonal allocations of BSAI Pacific cod to the jig sector are determined annually and provided for in the annual TAC setting process.

Sunset Provision

- Option 1: No sunset provision
- Option 2: Sunset 5 years after implementation

Alternative 3: Modify the current BSAI Pacific cod allocations among the fixed gear sectors according to catch histories to be determined as a percentage of cumulative catches of BSAI Pacific cod by gear type for: 1995 - 1999.

- Option: Include a 1.4% allocation to pot and hook-and-line catcher vessels <60', to be subtracted from the overall fixed gear allocation before the split is made.

Rollover Options

- Option 1: Any unharvested portion of the hook-and-line catcher vessel and the <60' pot and hook-and-line vessel quota that is projected to remain unused by a specified date shall be reallocated to the hook-and-line catcher processor fleet.
- Option 2: Any quota reallocated from the jig or trawl sectors will be apportioned 95% to the hook-and-line catcher processor sector and 5% to the pot sectors.
- Option 3: Apportion the 2% BSAI Pacific cod jig allocation on a quarterly or trimester basis as follows, and rollover unused jig gear quota to the catcher vessels <60' using hook-and-line or pot gear:

- Suboption:
- (a) 25% - 25% - 25% - 25%
 - (b) 50% - 30% - 15% - 5%
 - (c) 33.3% - 33.3% - 33.3%
 - (d) 60% - 25% - 15%
 - (e) Provide a regulatory framework such that the seasonal allocations of BSAI Pacific cod to the jig sector are determined annually and provided for in the annual TAC setting process.

Sunset Provision

- Option 1: No sunset provision
Option 2: Sunset 5 years after implementation

Alternative 4: (Applicable only in combination with Alternatives 2 or 3). Apportion the pot share of the BSAI Pacific cod fixed gear TAC between pot catcher processors and pot catcher vessels according to catch histories to be determined as a percentage of cumulative catches of the BSAI Pacific cod TAC by pot sector for:

- Option 1: 1995-1999
Option 2: 1996-2001
Option 3: 1998 -2001
Option 4: 2000, 2001

- Suboption: Any portion of the Pacific cod pot catcher processor or pot catcher vessel quota that is projected to remain unused by a specified date shall be reallocated as follows:
- (a) Unused quota from either pot sector would be reallocated to the other pot sector before it is reallocated to the other fixed gear sectors.
 - (b) Unused quota from the pot catcher vessel sector would be reallocated to the hook-and-line catcher vessel sector before it is reallocated to the pot catcher processor sector.